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SEP 11 2006
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket KM-GEL-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of MANSMANN)
) Examiner: C.L. Miller
Serial No. 10/677,444)
) Group Art Unit: 3738
Filed October 2, 2003)

Title: IMPLANTS FOR REPLACING CARTILAGE, HAVING NEGATIVELY-CHARGED HYDROGEL SURFACES AND FLEXIBLE MATRIX REINFORCEMENT

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENTS, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on Sept. 5, 2006.

Name of Registered Representative: Patrick D. Kelly

Signature: Patrick D. Kelly

Date: 5 Sept 2006

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FIRST RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

The following remarks and enclosed amendments are in reply to a First Office Action dated March 3, 2006. A petition for a three-month extension of time also is enclosed.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112

Claim 27 was rejected for indefiniteness, due to an incorrect citation to claim 25. It should have referred to claim 26, instead, and it is corrected by the enclosed amendment.

NOVELTY REJECTION BASED ON US 6,264,695 (STOY)